

# **NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION BOARD MEETING**

**Friday, August 9, 2019: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Department of Environmental Quality, Large Conference Room 1210**

**217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina**

**Presiding Board Member:** April Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson

**Board Members Present:** Tiffany Bell, Holly Jones, Christy Agner, Carolina Alzuru, Shelby Benton, April Burgess-Johnson, David Byrd, Cathy Cloninger, Phillip Coates, Hilary Cooper, Surabhi Gawande, Starleen Scott-Robbins, Annette Taylor, and Pamela Thompson,

**Board Member on call:** Kriquette Davis

**Special Guests Present:** Julia Horrocks, Pisgah Legal Services, Nikki Locklear, Commission of Indian Affairs, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Angela Harper King, DHHD, Maggie Slocumb, Helpmate a Domestic Violence Agency, Judge Anita Earls, Karen Parker, Safe Alliance Mecklenburg County, Laura Lawrence, Safe Alliance Mecklenburg County, Leigh Duque and Keri Christensen, Interact, Wake Co. Shanon Gerger, NC DOA Paralegal, Elizabeth Wexler, NCVAN, Lizzie Biddle, Center for New North Carolinians UNC-Greensboro, Brooke Crozier, NC OFFICE OF Language Access Services, Sabrina Garcia, NC Victim Assistance Network, and Christine Ryan, OSHR Assistant General Counsel

**Staff Members Present:** Mary Williams-Stover, Executive Director, Emily Roach Kathleen Balogh, Gwen Moragne, Diane Blumel, Emily Roach, Alisa Milliken, Erica Savage, Deborah Torres, Talal Foz, and Bernetta Thigpen.

**I. Call to order-** Ms. Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. She read the Ethics Statement and invited any member who may have a conflict of interest to identify. No conflicts reported.

The Honorable Judge Anita Earls administered the oath of office for Carolina Alzuru, Shelby Benton, and Surabhi Gawande as new DV Commission members.

**II. Introductions:** Members were invited to introduce themselves, talk about their role and what they would like to do in their role in the DV Commission.

## **Responses from members included the following:**

- Further the education and awareness in the court systems.
- Learn about the Commission and take information back to AOC, for judges and as a resource guide for district courts.
- Advance Evidence Based and Best Practices to bring to NC state. Learn and promote Family Justice Center
- Works with Domestic Violence Protective Orders, identifying the legislative needs in the state
- Enhance the work of the Access to Transportation and Language committee.
- Promote policy and advocacy work.
- Ensure that underserved survivors have access to services.
- Create awareness about Batterer Intervention programs, what they can do, make victims feel safe, and hold the perpetrator accountable. The program builds on relationship skills and identifies people that need help, so they do not become batterers.

**III. Approval of Minutes** – May 17, 2019 Meeting -Phillip Coates made a motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hilary Cooper. Minutes approved.

#### **IV. Chairperson's Report – April Burgess-Johnson, Chairperson**

April spoke about three-year plan strategic goals review and priorities. She announced a need for a member to step up for Vice Chair of the Commission, April also thank Pamela Thompson for service she gave to the DVC her term will end August 31, 2019. Committees are required to report back and bring actionable items or recommendations back to the DV Commission following lunch.

**V. Presentation - NC Family Justice Centers Update on Success – Karen Parker and Laura Lawrence, Safe Alliance of Mecklenburg, Co.**

*Leigh Duque and Keri Christenen, Interact of Wake County*

**\*Attached is Power Point of the presentation**

Highlights include: Promoting awareness of the NC Family Justice Center

#### **VI. Committee Purpose:**

**Batterer Intervention Programs Committee:** Provide input on policy recommendations to improve process, curriculum and legislative recommendations to support funding, and monitoring capacity.

**Legislative Committee:** Annual Legislative agenda for the DV Commission to approve and utilize to engage and advise legislators on policy changes.

**Access to Transportation and Language Access:** Identify partners and collaborate with other organizations to explore, develop assets and funding opportunities to expand language and transportation access resources for DV/SA victims.

**Victim Services/Engagement Committee:** Identify obstacles and barriers for victim's access and work to remove those obstacles and connect victims to services.

**Access to Healthcare Services:** Explore resources and methods for DV/SA service providers to identify mental health and substance abuse service providers/agencies to meet victim needs

#### **VII. Committee Reports and Action Items:**

**Batterer Intervention Committee – Kathleen Balogh and Tiffany Bell gave an update**

- Court Officials training on new BIP Civil Court process speak with NC Bar about training opportunities for court officials.
- Partner with School of Government and the Education Committee to be included in training agenda/topic workshop, possibly as early as Spring 2020.
- Create a standing training webinar, offered as CEU's for court officials and is accessible at any time, work with AOC on opportunities to disseminate information on new Civil Court BIP and 50B proceedings taking effect 12/1/2019. Work with DHHS to explore possible solutions to timing of case closure of DV cases when an offender is ordered to attend a BIP. Explore options to keeping a DV case open until there is documented completion of the BIP (not just enrollment and attendance for a few weeks). Statistics demonstrate that an offender ordered into BIP by DSS will comply up to when DSS closes their case, usually before the 26-week class is completed. The case closure is due to apparent adherence to DSS orders, yet once DSS closes the case the offender drops out as there is no need to be accountable to DSS as their case has been closed.
- Partner with NCCADV on their Advocates Institute Training to include a section on talking with victims about checking/requesting that the offender be ordered to attend a BIP on the 50B paperwork.
- Formalize process/procedure of removing approved programs from the Directory that formalizes NCAC 17.0715 Abuser Treatment Program. Investigations and Removal from approved list section (j). Committee formalized sections (a)- (i) dealing with complaints and this information is available in the Best Practices Manual available on the CFW&YI website on the BIP page of resources.

- Re-establish a permanent paid BIP staff position within the CFW&YI.
- Adopt new terminology for Batter Intervention Programs. Consider using Domestic Violence Offender Management (DVOM) program. Work in collaboration with NC PAT to implement.
- Kathleen Balogh inform the Commissioners that Tiffany Bell will be the Co-Chair of the BIP Committee

#### **Access to Transportation Services – Phillip Coats gave update**

- Committee is continuing to respond to the findings from the needs assessments in Eastern and Western Region by exploring partnerships with faith-based partners, DSS/county/city public transportation systems.
- Committee members, Tammie Montanez with DOT is exploring the Traveler's Aid Grant to see if it is available for local recurring transportation. The grant does have a 50/50 Match and perhaps volunteer reimbursement with the county transit service,
- Duke Divinity Partnership – is to be developing with the Duke Divinity School's Field Education program to place students in rural communities who will then have access to faith-based organizations. Discussion about creating a tool kit to share with churches including information on how to create a DV transportation volunteer program in their congregation.
- A meeting took place with Kevin Leonard, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to explore how to create solutions at the county level like relocating or adding new bus stops by engaging city council members.
- Transportation committee is seeking new members with connections at county level to engage and discuss making changes to the county transit systems to increase transportation access and seeking Co-Chair for the committee.

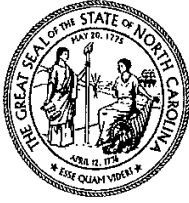
#### **Access to Victim Services Committee – Cathy Cloninger gave update**

- She is still working on getting connected to Uber and Lyft as potential partners.
- Two interns are helping to research faith-based organizations in the Eastern region as potential resources
- Agencies face several challenges for insurance. DV agencies were able to purchase vehicles from State Surplus last year, however the main barrier is the cost of insurance. She reached out to Marjorie Boyd from Department of Insurance to work out a solution.
- GCC will receive over \$100 Million in VOCA funds in N.C. and the goal is to identify opportunities for doing regional grants and/or identifying programs to use the funds for transportation access.

#### **Access to Health Care Committee– Starleen Scott-Robbins gave update**

- Committee members are working on a survey to be sent out to DV victim service providers to identify what questions are asked of trauma informed mental health treatment providers currently treating survivors.
- Create an additional survey that will be completed by providers and licensed physicians to determine their philosophy and level of training.
- Committee plans to identify providers for each county that meets the criteria to provide trauma informed care.

#### **Legislative Committee – Holly Jones gave update**



**North Carolina  
Department of Administration**

**Machelle Sanders**  
Secretary

**Christy R. Agner**  
Deputy Secretary of Advocacy

To: Domestic Violence Commission  
Legislative Subcommittee

From: Christy Agner  
Deputy Secretary, Advocacy Services

Re: Legislative Status report  
August 9, 2019

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief update on the status of the 2019 Regular Session of the NC General Assembly and related filed legislation. The NCGA remains in session, with no adjournment resolution approved by the body to date. Committees have continued to meet; however, public notice was provided by the Senate that policy committees are not likely to meet further this session.

A 2019 Appropriations Act (H 966) was passed by both chambers and received a veto from Governor Cooper in June. To date, the NCGA has not acted to override the veto. The Governor has called on the NCGA to discuss a compromise budget with an altered recurring appropriations structure. It is my understanding that the compromise budget's non-recurring appropriations are not in conflict with H 966. While H 966 does not contain identified positions in the Council for Women for elimination, the NCGA retained the overall target of \$303k reductions from DOA, required to come from 'personal services reductions.' Further the budget requires a report by Oct. 1 detailing the salary and benefit data of the eliminated positions, either filled or vacant. As many of DOA's functions are receipt supported, the impact of this significant reduction to appropriated positions is unknown as H 966 is still pending legislation.

Commission developed legislation to address court oversight of persons ordered to complete Abuser Treatment bill has been signed. SB 493 contains the language requested by the Commission. Upon signing the legislation July 26, 2019, Governor Cooper shared "As a former Attorney General, I know how important the safety of domestic violence victims is to prosecuting abusers. This legislation adds clarity to the law to better protect victims and hold abusers accountable." Legislators leading the bill's movement include Rep. Sarah Stevens and former Rep. Rena Turner, who resigned in June 2019. Sen. Danny Britt allowed his legislation, SB 493, to be amended to include the language originally filed in H 914.

The Department's legislative liaison is available to assist with any additional endorsed legislation of the Commission during the 2019 Regular Session until adjournment.

## **ACTION**

Holly asked for a vote to Endorse House Bill 454, Allow ERPOs to Save Lives & Prevent Suicides. Motion made by Holly Jones. Shelby Benton seconded the motion for the Commission. April Burgess Johnson tabled the vote because the members did not have enough members to vote, April stated that she will send an email to DVC members to allow members to vote by email and to study the House Bill 454. April also stated to DVC members when they vote DO NOT REPLY ALL ONLY REPLY TO April Burgess Johnson, she's giving members 10 days from today to vote. August 22, 2019 Chairperson, April Burgess-Johnson received email votes from the Commissioners that the motion to endorse HB 454 has passed with 14 Yes responses and 1 No.

## **VIII. Action Items/Updates/Announcements: Mary Williams-Stover**

Mary Williams-Stover spoke about upcoming event on August 22, 2019 at the State Capital and save the date for September 7, 2019 She Changed the World event at the State Capital.

**X. Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 2.00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:     Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 / 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Department of Environmental Quality, Large Conference Room 1210  
217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina**

Submitted by Deborah Torres